

Environmental Assessment

Environmental Assessment (EA) Number: OR-056-02-028

Title: SCAT Machine

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Office: Prineville

Resource Area: Deschutes

Type of Use: Human Waste Disposal System

Project Location: Maupin, Oregon at Township 4 South, Range 14 East, Section 33,
Willamette Meridian, Oregon

EA Team Leader: Lynette Ripley

1.0 Proposed Action and Purpose and Need

1.1 Proposed Action

The City of Maupin has entered into agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to facilitate installation of a human waste disposal system (SCAT Machine) within Maupin City Park. The SCAT Machine is a large washing unit that cleans portable toilets and properly disposes of human waste. The machine would be set up adjacent a shower/restroom building located in the park's tent camping area. There are no public lands associated with this proposal. All river managing agencies and the Lower Deschutes Working Group and Implementation teams have also discussed and support this proposal.

1.2 Purpose and Need

1.2.1 Need

Human waste has become a problem in most undeveloped campsites within the Lower Deschutes River corridor. In an effort to reduce the human waste problem, primary river managing agencies (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department [ORPD]), with concurrence of Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), State Police (OSP), the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS), and local governments (LG) developed a requirement for all overnight river float trips to carry, set up and use an approved portable toilet system. Agency implementation of this regulation is effective June 1, 2002 and includes installation and operation of a SCAT Machine.

1.2.2 Purpose

Provide an approved, sanitary and convenient method for river users to properly dispose of human waste collected in portable toilets while floating the Lower Deschutes River.

1.2.3 Conformance and Consistency

The Lower Deschutes Management Plan, page 62, states:
Campers will be required to pack out all human waste and garbage from sites with no sanitation or garbage facilities.
Sanitation disposal facilities will be provided at boat landings.

2.0 Description of the Alternatives

2.1 Alternative A: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative a SCAT Machine would not be installed in Maupin City Park.

2.2 Alternative B: Proposed Action

The proposed action involves setup and installation of a SCAT Machine in Maupin City Park. The machine would be set up on an 8 by 14 foot concrete pad located immediately adjacent to the existing shower/restroom building and connected to pre-existing municipal water and sewer lines. A small amount (four to six inches deep) of excavation would be required for the concrete pad. The City of Maupin would complete all site preparation work, including the pad, and the SCAT machine manufacturer would complete installation on site.

3.0 Affected Environment

3.1 Location and Topography

The area analyzed is within Maupin City Park and the City of Maupin. It would be

adjacent to an existing shower/restroom building and located between the building and the Lower Deschutes River paved access road. The topography is flat.

3.2 **Vegetation**

Project area vegetation is limited to introduced Kentucky bluegrass.

3.3 **Special Status Species**

The likelihood of occurrence of special status plants or animals is low.

3.4 **Noxious Weeds**

Currently there are only a few, scattered noxious weed sites in the general area. Primary species are spotted knapweed, diffuse knapweed, and an occasional scotch thistle. Other weedy species, which are not classified as noxious, include annual mustards, cheatgrass, mullein, and teasel.

The area surrounding the proposed project is periodically monitored for the existence of noxious weeds and where infestations are found and treatment is warranted, control activities are initiated.

3.5 **Recreation**

The project area is heavily used annually by recreationists for camping, and boat put-in/take-out from May through September.

3.6 **Visual Resources**

The project area is outside the Lower Deschutes River Wild and Scenic corridor. The project area would be considered a Class III.

3.7 **Livestock Grazing**

This proposal is located outside of any public land grazing allotments.

3.8 **Wildlife**

Wildlife use in this area consists primarily of frequent mule deer presence and multiple song bird species using the river riparian area and park trees.

4.0 **Environmental Consequences**

4.1 **Vegetation**

Alternative A: No Action

Direct and Indirect: No Impact

4.1.2 **Alternative B: Proposed Action**

Direct and Indirect: Vegetation in the 8 by 10 foot area consisting of introduced grass species would be removed to facilitate construction of the concrete pad.

4.1.3 **Special Status Plants**

There would be no expected impacts on any Special Status Plants because of the low likelihood of occurrence of those plants.

4.1.4 **Cumulative Impacts**

None

4.2 **Recreation**

4.2.1 **Alternative A: No Action**

Direct and Indirect: Recreational users throughout the lower river corridor would continue to be exposed to high levels of uncontained human waste in undeveloped campsites, creating risk for disease transmittal. Lack of a convenient method of disposal of human waste from the portable toilets

within the river corridor could result in unlawful disposal of the waste at locations along the river.

4.2.2 **Alternative B: Proposed Action**

Direct and Indirect: Provision of an easily accessible, sanitary, and approved, method of disposal of human waste would result in less waste on the ground. It would also reduce potential for contamination or disease transmittal and a more pleasant environment public enjoyment and while protecting of natural resources.

4.2.3 **Cumulative**

This action would result in a substantially cleaner and safer environment and healthier natural resources at river campsites. A gradual change in user acceptance of carry-out systems would be expected and benefit not only the Deschutes River but other recreational rivers in the west.

4.3 **Public Safety**

4.3.1 **Alternative A: No Action**

Direct and Indirect: Public safety and law enforcement concerns in the area would remain the same. Continued risks of contamination or disease transmittal would be expected.

4.3.2 **Alternative B: Proposed Action**

Direct and Indirect: Potential for risk to public land users resulting from exposure of uncontained human wastes would decrease.

5.0 **No Impacts**

The following critical elements were considered, but will not be addressed because they would either not be affected or do not exist in the project area:

1. Agricultural Lands, Prime or Unique
2. Flood plains
3. Riparian/Wetlands
4. Wild and Scenic Rivers
5. Wilderness
6. Wildlife
7. Cultural Resources
8. Special Status Species (plants and animals)
9. Drinking Water Quality
10. Native American Religious Concerns
11. Paleontological Resources
12. Hazardous Wastes
13. Environmental Justice
14. Air Quality
15. Fisheries
16. Environmental Justice

6.0 Preparers and People, Agencies, and Organizations Consulted

6.1 Preparers (BLM)

Name	Contributions	Title
Ron Halvorson	Botany	Botanist
Ron Gregory	Cultural Resources	Archaeologist
Lisa Clark	Wildlife	Wildlife Technician
Tom Mottl	Recreation & Visual Resources	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Janet Hutchison	Realty, Team Leader	Realty Specialist
JC Hanf	Planning and Coordination	Natural Resource Staff Lead
Robert Towne	Coordination	Deschutes RA Field Mgr
Jimmy Eisner	Fisheries	Fisheries Biologist

6.2 Persons, Agencies, and Organizations Consulted

1. Mike Miles, Maupin City Park
2. Sherry Holiday, Maupin Major
3. Steve Brutscher, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
4. Brian Cunninghame, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
5. Kim Campbell, Oregon State Police.

NEPA Requirements met:

/s/ JC Hanf, Acting	06/10/02
Marci Todd	Date
Deschutes Resource Area Environmental Coordinator	

Attachment
Map 1: Map of Area
Photograph of SCAT Machine